



For Immediate Release  
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## Urban League receives \$50,000 GRANT from Lowe's Support for English Literacy and Home Ownership Helping a Silent Population in a Sagging Economy

[Charlotte, NC.] – Lowe's Charitable and Educational Fund has awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Urban League of Central Carolina's (ULCC) for Home Maintenance and Repair and Predatory Lending classes. This program also includes "English for everyone" classes that assists Spanish speakers with attaining a basic command and working knowledge of the English language and assists with career preparation for the Construction and Hospitality industry. This special partnership with Lowe's targets Spanish speaking individuals to increase their English language aptitude and two special seminars, designed to empower current homeowners and home seekers: Home Maintenance and Repair and Predatory Lending.

"Lowe's continues to be an outstanding corporate partner," says Dr. Patrick Graham, President/CEO of Urban League of Central Carolinas. "This grant targets a silent population that is contributing to our economy and has potential to help stabilize our housing market. But they need education and that's what Lowe's is helping us to do. We are living into our mission...helping individuals from all segments of our community achieve financial stability."

The English Aptitude Training program is coordinating with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools to offer this new program for Latinos at Sterling Park Elementary School. The program will utilize 20 new Leap Frog laptops for the Sed De Seber (the name of the "English everyone" program). Adults will meet weekly at the school to improve their English language skills while learning key words for use in the hospitality and construction industries. Participants will also be exposed to life skills training to help them develop skills for use in their every day lives. Classes will run from Monday, March 16 to Thursday, June 4, 2009. A second class will begin in September at the Urban League main office. The Lowe's home maintenance and Repair and the Predatory lending classes for the general public will be offered monthly as well.

"By supporting local projects like the Urban League of Central Carolinas, Inc., we are not only contributing to a cause that's important to our customers and employees, but we're also helping build a stronger foundation for the children who will be tomorrow's employees, homeowners and community leaders," says Larry D. Stone, Chairman of the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation.

### **Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation**

Since its inception in 1957, Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has helped communities nationwide through employee volunteerism and financial contributions. In 2006, the Foundation supported community and education projects across the country through grants totaling more than \$15 million.

### **The Urban League of Central Carolinas, Inc.**

Established in 1978, the Urban League of Central Carolinas is an affiliate of the National Urban League. As a long standing pillar in the community, we are dedicated to empowering the community to attain financial stability and social justice in a global economy through education, training and placement. For more information about this and other program, please call the Urban League at 704-373-2256.